

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Friday, August 9, 1985

GEORGE N. GRAY
CHAIRMAN

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

August 9, 1985

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

August 9, 1985

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members Present:

Dr. Jack Cappel
Mr. Lyle Crain
Dr. Don Hines
Mr. Joe Palmisano
Mr. Mark Roberts
Mr. Dale Vinet

Mr. J. Burton Angelle was also present.

Mr. Vinet made a motion to approve the minutes of July 3, 1985, seconded by Dr. Cappel and passed unanimously.

Ray Montet gave the Monthly Enforcement Report at Thursday's meeting.

Chuck Smith presented a slide series to give us some idea of what has taken place in Prairie, Canada this past summer. The trip to Canada was taken July 18-24, 1985 to look at habitat and production. There was very little difference from last year; the conditions were still dry.

Larry Soileau stated that he represented the Department at a series of meetings at which waterfowl regulations were developed. He also represented the Mississippi Flyway Council and served as an advisor to the Fish and Wildlife Service. It was the Fish and Wildlife Service's opinion that a reduction of 25% in harvest was called for this year. That was an average annual harvest that had occurred during the past six years. Moderate reductions were made in framework, bag limits and season length.

Comments were made from two individuals on Thursday and three individuals presented their comments on Friday.

Robert Helm read the staff's recommendations for ducks and geese.

The following season dates pertaining to the hunting of waterfowl in Louisiana were adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, August 9, 1985 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with a motion from Dr. Hines and seconded by Mr. Crain. The dates set by the Commission are tentative and cannot be finalized until notification is received from the Federal Government on August 19, 1985 that no changes have occurred in the framework.

1985-86 Waterfowl Seasons

Ducks and Coots

WEST ZONE

Nov. 9 - Dec. 1	23 days
Dec. 21 - Jan. 11	<u>22 days</u>
	45 days

EAST ZONE

Nov. 23 - Dec. 1	9 days
Dec. 14 - Jan. 13	<u>31 days</u>
	40 days

Geese

WEST ZONE

Nov. 9 - Dec. 1	23 days
Dec. 21 - Feb. 5	<u>47 days</u>
	70 days

EAST ZONE

Nov. 23 - Dec. 1	9 days
Dec. 14 - Feb. 12	<u>61 days</u>
	70 days

Special Scaup (allowed only in special designated areas in southeast Louisiana coastal bays and lakes)

Jan. 15, 1986 - Jan. 30, 1986	16 days
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Secretary Angelle stated that he has received calls from a number of legislators. Most of them called to say that they supported the staff's recommendations and one call requested as late a season as possible.

Harry Schafer gave the Monthly Survey Report at Thursday's meeting. During the period of July 1 through August 2, 1985 115 surveys were scheduled, 42 were unable to be done due to bad weather or fishermen unable to meet surveyor and 6 no shows. Lease rental collected was \$1,252.07, survey fees collected were \$2,841.00, 8 tonnage licenses issued, 3 dredging licenses issued and 28 new leases were issued.

Mr. Palmisano presented a resolution to the Commission to lift the oyster lease moratorium. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Mr. Roberts and passed unanimously to accept the resolution.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the commission imposed a moratorium on the taking of oyster lease applications at its meeting on April 25, 1978 to allow the Survey Section to process the backlog of oyster lease applications and

WHEREAS, the Oyster and Shrimp Committee held public hearings in Houma on June 11, 1985 and in Kenner on June 12, 1985 to receive input on the proposed rules for the lifting of the moratorium.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the moratorium on the taking of oyster lease applications be lifted in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

A.

1. No application will be accepted that will cause an applicant to exceed a total of 1000 acres under lease and application. Ref. R.S. 56:432.
2. Applications will remain in effect for a period of three years. At the end of three years any applications not surveyed by this department or a private surveyor will be cancelled.
3. Upon death of an applicant the estate will have 180 days to appoint a representative to deal with the survey of applications. If the department has not been notified within 180 days the application will be cancelled and survey fees will be retained.

B. Application Procedure

1. A total of 350 applications for new area will be accepted in 1985.

2. Upon lifting of the moratorium a date will be set for the taking of appointments to make applications.
3. Each appointment will be for a 30 minute period and will allow the applicant to make one (1) application.
4. If all applicants have received applications and there are still openings, an applicant can go to the end of the line and make another appointment for one (1) application. An applicant may continue to go to the end of the line and make appointments as long as applications are available.
5. In subsequent years the number of applications not surveyed by August 1 will be determined. This number will be subtracted from a base of 500 to determine the number of applicants to be accepted. On October 1 appointments will be taken and the rules in paragraphs B-3 and B-4 will apply.

C.

1. The survey application fees for new areas will be changed as follows:

<u>ACRES</u>	<u>OLD FEES</u>	<u>NEW FEES</u>
a. 10 acres or less	\$80.00	\$100.00
b. 11-20 acres	\$120.00	\$150.00
c. 21-200 acres	\$2.00 additional for each acre after 20	\$2.50 additional for each acre after 20
d. 201-1000	\$1.00 additional for each acre after 200	\$1.50 additional for each acre after 200

2. The survey application fees for leases expiring by 15-year limitation will be changed as follows:

<u>ACRES</u>	<u>OLD FEES</u>	<u>NEW FEES</u>
a. 10 acres or less	\$50.00	\$70.00
b. 11-20 acres	\$75.00	\$105.00
c. 21-200 acres	\$1.25 additional for each acre after 20	\$1.75 additional for each acre after 20
d. 201-1000	\$0.65 additional for each acre after 200	\$1.15 additional for each acre after 200

3. The survey application fees for restakes will be changed as follows:

	<u>SHOTPOINT</u>	<u>OLD FEE</u>	<u>NEW FEE</u>
One's own lease:	Each	\$20.00	\$25.00
Another's lease:	First two	\$80.00	\$90.00
	Each additional	\$40.00	\$50.00

Johnnie Tarver presented a resolution to adopt the alligator tag allotment quotas. Mr. Crain made a motion, seconded by Mr. Vinet and passed unanimously to adopt these quotas.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the authority under the Endangered Species Act to establish an alligator season; and

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission adopted a resolution on July 3, 1985 to set the 1985 Alligator season from August 31, 1985 through September 30, 1985; and

WHEREAS, The alligator population in Louisiana has been determined by biologists of the Department to be capable of sustaining an annual harvest of animals; and

WHEREAS, The removal of the animals is considered to be a wise use of this natural resource of the State of Louisiana,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the attached alligator tag allotment quotas for the 1985 Alligator season. (Attached to these Minutes)

Johnnie Tarver also presented a resolution to set the trapping season for 1985-86. A motion was made by Mr. Palmisano, seconded by Dr. Cappel and passed unanimously to approve the resolution.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, The fur industry of Louisiana represents a major resource of economy and income for many of the citizens of our state, and

WHEREAS, This resource is a renewable natural one, which has proven under wise management to increase in importance in our state, and

WHEREAS, An annual harvest of the surplus animals is in keeping with wise wildlife management techniques based on scientific management, and

WHEREAS, Fur prices were slightly improved during the 1984-85 trapping season, and

WHEREAS, Fur prices for nutria and muskrat continue to be too low to achieve an adequate harvest to prevent marsh damage in some areas, and

WHEREAS, Federal restrictions imposed by the CITES Scientific Authority concerning out-of-state shipment for otter and bobcat furs will again require placement of a possession tag by trappers or buyers to insure state origin, and

WHEREAS, The zonation concept has continued to be beneficial in reducing late caught unprime furs and has produced mainly favorable comments generated within the fur industry, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby establish the 1985-86 furbearers trapping season for the northern zone as being November 20, 1985 through February 15, 1986 and the southern zone as being December 1, 1985 through February 28, 1986, and sets a bag limit for daytime and nighttime raccoon and opossum hunting outside the trapping season of one raccoon and/or opossum per hunter per day or night, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the attached regulations governing the buying, tagging and shipment of bobcat and otter pelts are adopted for the 1985-86 trapping season, now

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department Secretary shall be authorized to close or extend the trapping season as biologically justifiable.

Don Lee informed the Commission concerning the status of the fish population on Lake D'Arbonne located in Union and Lincoln Parishes. The Commission adopted the proposed rule change February, 1984 to prohibit the use of gill nets, trammel nets, flagg nets and fish seines in the Lake. This rule change was requested by the local lake commission which was ratified in June, 1984. The lake did not support high poundages of commercial species nor a true commercial fishery. At the time of ratification the Commission requested to be advised of the status of the commercial fish population within the lake on an annual basis for at least two years. At the time recommendations were made to prohibit netting within the lake, the Fish Division reported that very low populations of available size food fish were present in the lake. Normally, we report food fish in two categories for management purposes. These are non-predator food fish which include such fish as buffalo, carp, suckers, etc. and the predator food fish are catfish, gar, etc. Fish population data in June, 1984 indicated 2% of the available fish population was non-predator food fish. This 2% did not include any of the more valuable species such as buffalo and carp. Data for 1985 shows this population is 1% of the available population. Again, there are no buffalo or carp. The predator food fish comprised only 1% of the available population in 1984, however, the pursuit of the species in this group, particularly flathead and channel catfish was very popular; therefore, the Commission elected to allow the use of hoop nets, slat traps and other hook and line fishery methods to harvest these fish. This has met with favorable response with the users of the lake.

At Thursday's meeting, Jerald Owens, District III Supervisor presented a very interesting slide series about the wildlife management areas and activities in District III. This district has five areas; Alexander State Forest, Boise-Vernon, Peason Ridge, Fort Polk and Sabine. This was the third report of the Game Division regarding the districts to help inform the Board members of the activities of this division.

Hugh Bateman presented a resolution to ratify the resident game seasons for 1985-86. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Hines and passed unanimously for ratification.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on June 4, 1985 in Bossier City, Louisiana, set the 1985-86 resident game hunting seasons; and

WHEREAS, these proposals for the 1985-86 resident game hunting seasons are exempt from review by the Legislative Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, the required public notices and administrative procedures have all been met, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on this date, August 9, 1985, approved and ratified the resident game seasons set by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular June 1985 meeting.

Hugh Bateman presented another resolution to ratify doves and migratory species other than waterfowl for 1985-86. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel and passed unanimously for this ratification.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, personnel from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries attended regulations meetings and public hearings held by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C. for migratory species other than waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is making no recommended changes for doves, rails, gallinules, snipe, woodcock and September teal hunting from last year, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has heard the staff's recommendations for the 1985-86 migratory bird species other than waterfowl, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on this date, August 9, 1985, approved and ratified the season dates and bag limits recommended for these species of migratory birds.

At Thursday's meeting Mary Mitchell gave a general update on license and motorboat registration. This section has been working overtime and should catch up by next week. She also mentioned that they were having a difficult time obtaining the license books from the sheriffs. It was suggested that a resolution be sent to the Sheriffs' Association to have these books returned to the Department in a more timely manner. She also gave a detailed report of the operating budget for this fiscal year.

At Thursday's meeting Virginia Van Sickle went through each legislative bill that has become an act. She gave a brief explanation of each one. She also stated that these acts have already been added to the law book.

Bob Dennie presented the update on the Hunter Safety Program. Hunter safety totals were given and a schedule of courses that will be given in August. It was also mentioned that Colorado does not offer these courses for non-residents but they require that a person take the course before they can hunt there.

Virginia Van Sickle presented a resolution to be sent to urge and request every sheriff to return revenue and license books. A motion was made by Mr. Roberts, seconded by Dr. Hines, and passed unanimously.

(The full text of the resolution
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, Title 56:103 directs that tax collectors (Sheriffs) shall, between the first and tenth of each month, make a return to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for all license taxes collected by them in the preceding month, less the usual commission fixed by law, and

WHEREAS, Title 56:103 D (2) states that "the return shall be accompanied by a list giving the name and address of each person to whom a license was issued, the kind of license issued, and the amount collected from each license".

WHEREAS, The timing of this procedure is important to the Department in the collection of dedicated revenue and essential in the collection of data concerning the number and distribution of licenses and effort related to hunting, fishing and trapping, and

WHEREAS, Many of the sheriffs are not following these procedures and thereby delaying the Department in meeting its responsibility concerning collection of revenue and related data, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission urge and request every Louisiana Sheriff to follow prescribed law in the return of revenue and license books.

Dr. Hines offered a resolution to add to the previous one from the Commission. He stated that we should evaluate the effect of this resolution that was passed and other measures undertaken by this Department to improve the return of license fees from the Sheriffs to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at our February meeting; and if there is not satisfactory improvement in the return of these fees and license books that we consider sponsoring legislation that will allow us to either reduce the amount of commission paid to the Sheriffs on these delinquent returns as a penalty or sponsor legislation that will allow the Department to distribute and collect license fees. This was entered into the form of a motion, seconded by Dr. Cappel and passed unanimously.

The December meeting was set for Thursday and Friday, the 12th and 13th in New Orleans.

The meeting was adjourned.

Parish	1985 Tag Allotment/Marsh Type		
	Brackish	Intermediate	Fresh
Cameron Calcasieu	1:175	1:125	1:125
Jeff Davis			1:125
Vermilion	1:150	1:100	1:250
Iberia St. Mary	1:325	1:200	1:275
Terrebonne	1:300	1:100	1:150
Lafourche	1:700	1:175	1:125
St. Charles	1:525	1:150	1:100
St. John the Baptist		1:150	1:100
Jefferson	1:500	1:200	1:400
Orleans	1:700	1:225	1:225
Plaquemines	1:350	1:350	1:250
St. Bernard	1:700	1:200	
St. Tammany	1:125	1:125	1:225
Tangipahoa			1:175
Swamp	1:250		
Dewatered Marsh	1:700		
Deteriorating Brackish Marsh*	1:700		

*Marsh areas which are characterized by a generally declining alligator population caused by degradation of alligator habitat.

1985 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY ZONE AND PARISH

LAKE REGION

ZONE	PARISH	HABITAT	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	REMARKS
Minden	Caddo	Cross Lake	500	10	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Bossier	Flag Lake	500	30	Barksdale A.F.B. (Private)
	DeSoto	* Clear Lake	1,500	50	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
		** Smithport Lake	1,500	50	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
			4,000	140	
Monroe	No Public Lakes No Experimental Harvest				
Tloga	Grant	Iatt Lake	3,000	40	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Rapides	Indian Creek	500	10	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Rapides- Evangeline	Cocodrie Lake	4,000	20	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Winn	Saline Lake	2,400	30	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
	Vernon	Anacoco Lake	1,000	10	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
			10,900	110	

1985 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY ZONE AND PARISH CONT'D.

ZONE	PARISH	HABITAT	LAKE REGION		REMARKS
			ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	
Ferriday	Concordia	Lower Sunk Lake	600	5	Three Rivers W.M.A. (Experimental Harvest)
		Silver Lakes	400	5	Three Rivers W.M.A. (Experimental Harvest)
	Tensas	Lake St. Joseph	800	40	Public Lake (Experimental Harvest)
			1,800	50	
Lake Charles	Evangeline	Chicot Lake	1,625	16	State Parks (Experimental Harvest)
		Miller's Lake	3,000	30	Private Lake
			4,625	46	
Opelousas	Avoyelles	Grassy Lake WMA	1,000	20	(Experimental Harvest)
		Spring Bayou WMA	5,000	50	(Experimental Harvest)
	St. Martin	Bayou des Ourse Brake	1,300	13	Private brakes within upper portion of Atchafalaya Basin (Experimental Harvest)
	Iberville	Bayou des Glaize Brake	2,000	20	Private brakes within upper portion of Atchafalaya Basin (Experimental Harvest)
			9,300	103	

1985 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY ZONE AND PARISH CONT'D.

ZONE	LAKE REGION			REMARKS
	HABITAT	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	

Lake Region Totals	Lakes	30,625	449	Experimental Harvests
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Additionally: Any private alligator habitat determined by Department personnel to have a reproducing population may be issued tags at the rate of one tag per 100 acres of habitat.

* North of La. 509 Bridge

** South of La. 509 Bridge

1985 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY PARISH

CYPRESS-TUPELO SWAMP REGION

ZONE	PARISH	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
Opelousas	Iberville	29,880	120	250	Tag allotment based upon night counts and alligator model.
	Lafayette	1,200	5	250	
	Pointe Coupee	1,000	4	250	
	West Baton Rouge	7,040	28	250	
SUB TOTAL		38,120	157	250	
Baton Rouge	Ascension	40,320	161	250	
	East Baton Rouge	2,000	8	250	
	Livingston	66,720	267	250	
	Tangipahoa	36,181	145	250	
		145,221	581	250	
New Orleans	St. Charles	39,340	157	250	
	St. James	76,960	308	250	
	St. John	104,320	417	250	
SUB TOTAL		220,620	882	250	

1985 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY PARISH CONT'D.

CYPRESS-TUPELO SWAMP REGION

ZONE	PARISH	ACRES OF HABITAT	TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
New Iberia-Bourg	Assumption	98,560	394	250	
	Iberia	31,550	126	250	
	LaFourche	112,350	449	250	
	St. Mary	60,190	241	250	
	Terrebonne	43,014	172	250	
SUB TOTAL		345,664	1,382	250	
SWAMP TOTAL		749,625	3,002	250	

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN ALLIGATOR HABITAT

REGION	ACREAGE	DESCRIPTION
A. Henderson Lake	15,000	Bounded on the West by the West guide levee, on the North by Little Fordoche Bayou, on the East by Haha Bay and Gim Slough and on the South by La. Hwy. 3177.
B. Crook Chene Cove-Buffalo Cove	32,000	Beginning at the NW corner of Attakapas W.M.A.: A line North along Lake Fausse Pointe Cut to Bayou Benoit; West to the West Guide levee, North to the East-West Canal located approximately 3 miles South of Catahoula, La.: East approximately 2 miles to canal; Southeast on that same canal to Bayou Crook Chene; East to the main channel of the Atchafalaya River; South to the North boundary of Attakapas W.M.A.; west to point of beginning.
C. Spike Bay -Berry Lake	8,000	Beginning at a point 1-1/2 miles NW of Bayou Sorrel Landing: West along canal 5 miles; South along Spike Bay for 2 miles; East to intersect Bayou Sorrel then continue East along Bayou Sorrel to East guide levee; North to point of beginning.
D. Upper Grand River Flats	12,000	Beginning at Upper Grand River Landing: North along East guide levee approximately 9 miles to a canal running NW; NW along that canal 2-1/2 miles to King's Ditch; South approximately 5 miles to include Billy Littles Lakes; SE approximately 4 miles to intersection of Upper Grand River and Little Tensas Bayou; East along Upper Grand River to point of beginning.

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN ALLIGATOR HABITAT CONT'D.

REGION	ACREAGE	DESCRIPTION
E. Bayou Pigeon-Belle River-Flat Lake	140,000	Beginning at Bayou Pigeon Landing; South along East guide levee to Morgan City (excluding Flat Lake); NNW along East side of the main channel of Six Mile Lake approximately 10 miles to 21-Inch Canal; NE on 21-Inch Canal to Bayou Boutte; N on Bayou Boutte to the East boundary line of Attakapas W.M.A. then N along its East to Keelboat Pass; NE along Keelboat Pass and Flat Lake Pass to intersection of Williams Canal and a canal running SW-NE; North East along that canal to intersection of Intracoastal Canal (East Guide Levee); South to Bayou Pigeon Landing.
Total alligator habitat within Basin habitat type	207,000 acres	Tags may be issued at the rate of one tag per 1,280 acres of habitat.

1985 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR TAG ALLOTMENT BY REGIONS

REGION	ACRES OF HABITAT	POTENTIAL TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
Lakes	100,000	1,000	100	Includes public lakes as well as private Cypress-Lake habitat.
Cypress-Tupelo Swamp	750,000	3,000	250	Swamp habitat outside the Atchafalaya Basin.
Atchafalaya Basin	207,000	161	1,280	That portion of the Atchafalaya Basin determined to be Cypress-Tupelo swamp containing permanent water as determined by aerial observations as well as approximately 400 miles of travel by boat during April-June, 1985.
GRAND TOTAL	950,000	4,161		